

COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-GANG INITIATIVE 2006 GRANT SOLICITATION



On February 15, 2006, United States Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales identified gang violence as one of his top priorities and announced the creation of his Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI). Supported by \$2.5 million in grant funds per site, Cleveland is one of six sites chosen from across the county to implement the CAGI. This new initiative will incorporate prevention and enforcement efforts, as well as programs to assist released prisoners as they re-enter society. By integrating prevention, enforcement and prisoner re-entry, this new initiative aims to address gang membership and gang violence at every stage.

These six locations were selected to receive \$2.5 million in anti-gang resources in the following areas:

- **Prevention** – The Department will make available approximately \$1 million in grants per community to support comprehensive prevention efforts such as the Gang Reduction Program, which focuses on reducing youth-gang crime and violence by addressing the full range of personal, family and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.
- **Enforcement** – The Department will make available approximately \$1 million in grants per community to help support enforcement programs that will focus law enforcement efforts on the most significant violent gang offenders.
- **Prisoner Re-entry** – The Department will make available approximately \$500,000 per community to create re-entry assistance programs that will provide transitional housing, job readiness and placement assistance, and substance abuse and mental health treatment to prisoners re-entering society.

Chaired by United States Attorney Gregory A. White, the Cleveland CAGI Committee brings together elected officials, educators, public safety and law enforcement, community leaders, juvenile justice officials, and the private sector to attack significant gang problems through various prevention, enforcement, and prisoner re-entry strategies. The CAGI has established a gang violence reduction strategy that included six primary components:

- Creating partnerships among law enforcement and adult and juvenile public safety agencies to implement data-driven strategies to investigate and prosecute violent gang offenders
- Promoting community-wide partnerships to prevent gang violence
- Conducting training for public safety, juvenile justice and law enforcement officers
- Implementing successful strategies to transition ex-offenders into productive community members
- Empowering the community to resist gang recruitment efforts and gang-related violence
- Measuring the impact of AGI strategies by collecting and evaluating the relevant data

The Cleveland AGI Committee, in cooperation with the Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, is currently seeking to fund sustainable initiatives designed to effectively prevent gang violence, aggressively prosecute violent gang members, and successfully implement prisoner re-entry programs.

STRATEGY/ PROGRAM AREAS

U.S. Attorney Gregory A. White and the Cleveland CAGI Committee are requesting proposals for new and ongoing initiatives that effectively prevent and prosecute gang violence while reducing recidivism by promoting comprehensive prisoner re-entry programs in specific Cleveland communities. Applications should address one Program Area.

I. **Gang Violence Prevention, Intervention, Community Outreach and Engagement**

Sample Projects

- Mentoring gangs and high-risk youth
- Developing high academic performance and truancy prevention
- Developing outreach efforts dedicated to community revitalization and disrupting the culture that promotes gangs
- Developing or expanding outreach effort to educate students, parents, faculty and community regarding efforts to create and maintain safe schools and communities
- Developing media campaign to educate the community in the enormous human and economic costs and criminal penalties associated with gang
- **(See the attached Prevention Outline for a complete explanation of this Program Area)**
- **(See the attached Reentry Outline for a complete explanation of this Program Area)**

II. **Enforcement, Adjudication and Supervision**

Sample Projects

- Designate law enforcement officers to investigating gang cases or concentrating patrols in high gang-crime neighborhoods and prosecuting attorneys who prosecute juvenile and adult gang cases
- Develop new ways to significantly increase supervision of juveniles gang members, especially in the evening hours, and create new and effective gang intervention services to reduce recidivism and future offenses
- Design new ways to significantly increase supervision or revocation of violent gang member
- **(See the attached Enforcement Outline for a complete explanation of this Program Area)**
- **(See the attached Reentry Outline for a complete explanation of this Program Area)**

III. **Innovative Gang Violence Reduction**

Sample Projects

- Purchase equipment and develop technology that would allow better identification, supervision and monitoring of violent gang offenders
- Develop and improve programs and educational opportunities that more effectively prepare juveniles and adult offenders to re-enter their communities through intensive court supervision, family counseling, housing assistance, mental health, life skills, and job training

IV. **Media Outreach and Community Engagement Coordinator**

- Community engagement activities under these grants include working with citizens to develop a gang violence reduction strategy for the district, including appropriate crime prevention strategies that involve community members. The community can be a critical resource for offering positive alternatives to offenders who take the violence reduction message seriously but need help turning their lives around.
- Media outreach activities include producing and distributing literature, conducting mail campaigns, sponsoring local workshops, and creating related advertising messages. Advertising messages include public service announcements (PSAs), educational literature, crime prevention toolkits, billboard advertisements, press releases, and news articles. These media partners will work with the Cleveland CAGI Committee to identify local stakeholders, leverage the support of potential partners, identify resources, and engage members of the community in the PSN initiative.

V. **Research Coordinator**

- The program is designed to support the strategic planning and accountability components of the PSN Initiative. The goals of this program are (1) to increase the capacity of CAGI Committee to design data-driven strategies that produce measurable decreases in firearm-related violent crime and (2) to improve the long-term ability of federal, state, and local partners to work together to understand, prosecute, and prevent firearm-related violent crime within their jurisdictions.
- Unlike traditional research involving neutral observations, the CAGI expects research partners to be fully engaged in problem solving throughout the entire CAGI process. In order to bring knowledge of gang crime control and gang prevention theories into the local CAGI strategy development and design process, the research partner will identify, collect and analyze data and

street-level information, and report the findings back to the CAGI Committee. The research partner is responsible for documenting the process, evaluating the effectiveness of the intervention(s) and, based upon results, making recommendations to the task forces on possible strategic adjustments.

VI. **Project Coordinator**

- The Office seeks a overall Project Coordinator to develop and manage the enforcement, prevention, and reentry portion of the initiative. The coordinator will identify existing programs in the target community aimed at youth gang issues. Working with U.S. Attorney's Office personnel, community and business groups, and state and local government officials, the coordinator will evaluate these programs and make recommendations to the United States Attorney about their possible participation in the CAGI. The coordinator will assist the designated programs in meeting the requirements of the enforcement, prevention, and re-entry components and act as the Office's liaison to the programs. The coordinator will implement the Department of Justice's performance measures with respect to the prevention, enforcement and re-entry components, and write reports as requested by U.S. Attorney's Office personnel. The coordinator will also serve as the U.S. Attorney's Office subject matter expert on youth gang prevention, enforcement, and re-entry issues.

ELIGIBILITY

- Units of state and local government
- Nonprofit organizations
- All CAGI applicants must have an organization, or subgrantee, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant.

FUNDING

CAGI funds are meant to act as seed money for initiatives that significantly reduce gang violence. While matching funds are not required with CAGI grants, applicants are expected to explain what efforts have been made to directly fund the project or obtain public and private funds to further the project. With a two-year funding period, CAGI funds may not exceed \$100,000 per year, or a two year maximum of \$200,000. Applicants should specify the duration of the program. Projects selected for funding will most likely begin in October 2006.

SELECTION PROCESS

The CAGI Committee will review qualified proposals and select grantees. All applicants will be informed of the final funding decisions. As the agency responsible for the fiscal administration of this program, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) will then contact the selected grantees to obtain required forms and to discuss reporting procedures.

PROPOSALS

CAGI proposals **must be** submitted in the following format:

- OCJS Subgrant Application Title Page. A copy of this form may be downloaded at: www.ocjs.ohio.gov/funding/currentsolicitation.htm
- **Project Narrative.** Maximum of ten double-spaced pages, not including Title Page and Budget Summary.

The narrative **MUST** include:

- A. **Problem and Proposed Strategy:** After reviewing the target area for focused anti-gang efforts, describe the target area's gang problem, including data to support the problem, and what might have been done to date to address the problem. Develop a concise picture of the gang problem

to be addressed with the requested funds. Identify any gaps in services and how additional funding will be coordinated with other programs or related funding. Describe the current capacity of the applicant to collect and share gang-related crime information with other public and private organizations. Briefly explain how this initiative will be coordinated, listing organizations and partners involved in the planning and implementation process.

- B. **Goals and Objectives:** Describe the goals and objectives of the proposed project. Goals should specifically address the problem identified in (A) above. Objectives are specific statements outlining how the strategy's broader goals will be achieved; are quantifiable; and focus on the methods used by the project to address the problem.
- C. **Implementation Plan:** Include a plan for implementing the strategy in (A) above. The implementation plan should provide a clear overview of when the project's objectives and action steps will be implemented and completed. The plan should also include a detailed timeline, in chart form, that identifies milestones for significant tasks.
- D. **Program Evaluation/Performance Measures:** Describe the method Applicant will use to collect data relevant to the goals listed in their application. Identify how data for goals and objectives will be collected and used for future improvements or strategies. Applicants must explain how they plan to meet the BJA specific performance measures to be used for semi-annual progress reports. The specific performance measures can be found at www.ocjs.ohio.gov/funding/currentsolicitation.htm.
- E. **Capacity:** Provide detailed qualifications of the agency and the education, training and experience of individuals implementing the project. **With respect to the Program Areas involving Prevention and Re-entry Services, successful applicants will focus efforts initially in the Hough-St.Clair/Superior neighborhoods of the City of Cleveland, with particular emphasis on schools within these neighborhoods.** The applicant's degree of familiarity with Cleveland-area youth and social services, as well as demonstrated experience working with gang-involved and high-risk youth, should be emphasized in the applicant's submission.
- **Budget Summary.** Applicants must provide a budget that is allowable and reasonable. Applicants must submit a completed Budget Detail Worksheet. A copy of the form is may be downloaded at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/Forms/budget_fillable.pdf. Note that federal funds must be used to supplement existing funds for program activities and cannot replace, or supplant, nonfederal funds that have been appropriated for the same purpose. For additional unallowable costs see the Office of Justice Programs Office of the Comptroller's Financial Guide at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/FinGuide.

SUBMISSION

All proposals (Title Page, Project Narrative and Budget Summary) are due in the OCJS office ***no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 12, 2006.*** Please e-mail one copy to OCJS at zito@ocjs.ohio.gov, or Ezito@dps.state.oh.us

If proposal is in hard copy form, mail or deliver two copies to:

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services
1970 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 182632
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2632

Late applications will not be considered for funding. Directions to OCJS can be found at www.ocjs.ohio.gov/General/directions.htm. For technical assistance in completing the CAGI proposal, contact OCJS at (614) 466-7782 or e-mail to zito@ocjs.ohio.gov. For all other questions, contact Duane Deskins at (216) 622-3759 or e-mail duane.deskins2@usdoj.gov.